

March 30, 2020

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street
11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Hardeman:

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is joining with the Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA) and Food and Beverage Ontario (FBO) to request an exemption from Ontario's "reduced load period" weight restrictions on all Ontario highways and roads to facilitate the movement of foodstuffs, from critical farm inputs and products necessary for their production of crops through to delivery and distribution of essential finished food products. We understand that the Province of Quebec has implemented similar temporary exemptions from their Ontario's "reduced load period" weight restrictions to facilitate the movement of foodstuffs, products necessary for their productions and critical farm inputs in response to Covid-19.

It is imperative that priority be placed on ensuring productivity and efficiency of getting essential product for food production to the farm and distributed throughout the entire food value chain making the most efficient use of both human and trucking resources.

We respectfully request you raise this with your colleague, the Minister of Transportation.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

KC/pj

cc: Norm Beal; Food and Beverage Ontario
Dave Bутtenham; Ontario Agri Business Association
OFA Board of Directors